

Using Observation and Documentation: *Interpreting Observations*

Use these ideas and questions to build on what you've learned and extend your practice.

THINK ABOUT IT!

- **Self-Reflection**

Use these questions to think about your own practice.

- **Reflect with Others**

Supervisors, directors, coaches, and teachers/providers can be reflective partners.

- **The Power of Practice**

Invite a colleague to join you; observe or record each other and share ideas.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- What is my current approach to reflecting on observation data that I collect?
- What resources can I use to strengthen my reflection process? How can I incorporate the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) into my reflection process?
- What strategies can I use to uncover my own biases or expectations that may influence the review of data?
- How do I use my observation and documentation data to learn about children's development? How can I learn about children's interests?
- How do I use the collected information to inform the planning of learning experiences that are responsive to children's interests and needs?
- How often do I make a comprehensive review of my data to assess children's development in different domains? How can I make this process more efficient?

TRY IT OUT!

Practice reflecting on observation data. First, gather your recent observations, anecdotal records, or any other documentation for a particular child in your program.

- What do you learn about this child based on your observation data? What skills or concepts are represented in these observations?
- Use the ZPD framework to help you think about your observations: What skills can the child demonstrate independently? What skills or concepts are emerging in the ZPD?
- Based on this information, what learning experiences or materials could be added to the environment to enhance and support this child's learning?

How Did It Go?

What did you learn about the child? Was there a particular aspect of this process that was challenging? What might you try next time?

What Next?

Continue reflecting on observation data as you collect it. Share your experiences with colleagues, and ask them to share their process for reflecting on observation data. Check out *Digging In: Interpreting Observations* from the bundle materials to discover another practice opportunity. Use the next pack, *Organizing for Assessment*, to learn more about creating systems for assessment.